

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 32-62 are pending in this application. In the July 1, 2009 office action, the Examiner:

A. Rejected all of claims 32-62 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by EP 0797257 to Hajime et al. ("Hajime").

In this response, applicants have amended claims 32 and 53. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

II. Claim 32

Claim 32 was rejected as being anticipated by Hajime. Claim 32 has been amended to include the limitation from independent claim 62 that "the temporarily effective area is arranged at a depth of substantially between $0.75 W_B$ to $0.95 W_B$ from the pn junction, where W_B denotes the distance between the pn junction and an opposite edge of the voltage taking-up region." In the office action, this limitation was never addressed in regard to claim 62, and Applicants submit that Hajime fails to disclose or suggest such a limitation.

In the semiconductor component according to claim 32, as amended, the position of the temporarily effective area is clearly defined in view of the pn junction. The position of the temporarily effective area is important for achieving "a semiconductor component which is distinguished by a high static reverse voltage but has a field stopping area which in the event of taking up the reverse voltage after a commutation momentarily retards propagation of the

space charge zone, delays the abutting thereof on an nn.sup.+ (or pp.sup.+) junction, maintains the injection of holes into the base zone during the tail phase and thus enables a soft turn-off, so that disturbing oscillations are avoided during turn-off without simultaneous reduction of the static blocking capability.” (See Specification as filed, page 11, line 4 to page 12, line 17).

In Hajime, regions 11 of a reduced lifetime are provided on both sides of a drift zone 101 below the respective contacts. However, Hajime was not cited as disclosing, nor does it disclose, the specific position of a temporarily effective area in relation to an adjacent pn junction. Accordingly, Hajime cannot anticipate claim 32 as amended. Therefore, the anticipation rejection of claim 32 should be withdrawn.

III. Claims 53 and 62

Claims 53 and 62 were also rejected as being anticipated by Hajime. Claim 53 has been amended to include the same limitation incorporated into claim 35 that “the temporarily effective area is arranged at a depth of substantially between $0.75 W_B$ to $0.95 W_B$ from the pn junction, where W_B denotes the distance between the pn junction and an opposite edge of the voltage taking-up region.” Claim 62 already included the limitation. As mentioned above, Hajime was not cited as disclosing, nor does it disclose, the specific location of a temporarily effective area in relation to an adjacent pn junction. Accordingly, Hajime cannot anticipate claim 54, as amended, nor claim 62 as previously presented. Therefore, the anticipation rejection of claims 53 and 62 should be withdrawn as well.

IV. Dependent Claims 33-52 and 54-61

Dependent Claims 33-52 and 54-61 were also rejected as being anticipated by Hajime. Claims 33-52 and 54-61 depend from claims 32 and 53 and are therefore patentable over Hajime for the same reasons as claims 32 and 53. Accordingly, the anticipation rejection of claims 33-52 and 54-61 should be withdrawn as well.

V. Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted the applicant has made a patentable contribution to the art. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is therefore respectfully requested.

In the event applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for an extension of time or payment of an additional fee, the applicant conditionally petitions therefore, and authorizes any fee deficiency to be charged to deposit account 13-0014.

Respectfully submitted,

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